

from Kames Bay, Loch Fyne, 10/25 fathoms. Walker (12) also records this species from Puffin Island and Port Erin, "encysted in the outer integuments of ascidians."

Both *T. gibbosa* and *D. thea* are widely distributed throughout the Clyde sea-area in depths up to 35 fathoms.

While preparing this paper, I have been much indebted to Canon Norman, F.R.S., who kindly gave me assistance and advice and put at my disposal some of the literature on the subject, which was not otherwise available to myself.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE V.

- C. Cephalon and antennæ of male of *Dexamine thea*, Boeck.
 gn. 1. ♂. First gnathopod of male of ditto.
 gn. 1*. Part of first gnathopod of male of ditto (greatly enlarged).
 gn. 2. ♂. Second gnathopod of male of ditto.
 gn. 1. ♀. Propodal joint of first gnathopod of female of *Triteta gibbosa* (Bate), showing abnormal structure.
 gn. 1. Tg. Part of first gnathopod of male of *T. gibbosa*.
 prp. ♂, 3, 4, 5. 3rd, 4th, and 5th pereopods of male of *Dexamine thea*, Boeck.
 ep. 3. ♂. 3rd epimeral plate of male of ditto.
 up. 3. ♂. 3rd uropod of male of ditto.
 T. Telson of male of ditto.

XIX.—*The Species of the Genus Dactylopsila.*

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

A RENEWED examination of the specimens in the British Museum hitherto referred to *Dactylopsila trivirgata* shows that they may be readily separated into three species by the coloration of the hands and feet, as indicated in the following synopsis of the genus:—

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|---|---------------------------------|
| A. Fourth finger rather longer than others. | |
| a. Hands and feet wholly white. (N.W. New Guinea and neighbouring islands.) | 1. <i>D. trivirgata</i> , Gray. |
| b. Hands and feet not wholly white. | |
| a ² . Hands and feet wholly black. (S.E. New Guinea.) | 2. <i>D. melampus</i> , sp. n. |
| b ² . Metapodials and toes black, fingers and a band across ankles white. (N. Queensland.) | 3. <i>D. picata</i> , sp. n. |
| B. Fourth finger enormously longer than others | 4. <i>D. palpator</i> , M.-Edw. |

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE NEW SPECIES.

Dactylopsila melampus.

General characters as in *D. trivirgata*, but in all the

members of this genus there is a certain amount of variation in the details of the colour-pattern. Cheeks and upper lips varying, either white in continuation of the white belly-colour, or black owing to the broadening downwards of the lateral dark facial stripe. Chin and interramia black, not divided mesially by a light line. Fore limbs with the dark band that runs down from the lateral dorsal line continued on to and including the whole of the hands, though there may be a few light hairs near the tips of the fingers. Hind feet similarly black, except that the fine hairs of the hallux are generally light. Tail with or without a white tip.

Skull apparently quite like that of *D. trivirgata*, except that the muzzle is rather broader and stronger, not so sharply and narrowly pointed.

Dimensions of the type (taken from skin) :—

Head and body 285 mm. ; tail 330 ; hind foot 45.

Skull: upper length 60 ; basal length 54 ; greatest breadth 41 ; three anterior molariform teeth 8·9.

Hab. South-eastern British New Guinea. Type from Kokoda, Mambare R., alt. 1000'. Others from Tamata, Mambare R. (*Stalker*) ; Albert Edward Ranges, Central B. N. G. (*Rohu*), and Ougarra, Angabunga R. (*Meek*).

Type. Old female. B.M. no. 7. 2. 1. 14. Collected 12th July, 1906, and presented by C. A. W. Monckton, Esq. Seven specimens examined.

Dactylopsila picata.

Most like *D. melampus* in general characters and skull, but the dark patch on the chin and interramia is smaller, and the colour of the hands and feet is not so completely black. On the fore limb the dark band which runs down its front narrows abruptly on the upper side of the wrist, so as to leave two white patches on each side of it, then broadens again so as to cover the metacarpal region, and then comes to an end, leaving the upper side of the fingers inconspicuously whitish. On the hind limb a white band passes across the upper side of the tarsus, separating the black of the leg from that of the metatarsals, the latter dark patch, however, continuing on to the upper surface of the toes, the hallux remaining, as usual, white. Tail white-tipped in both examples.

Skull apparently as in *D. melampus*, or the tooth-row a little longer.

Dimensions of the type (measured in skin) :—

Head and body 275 mm. ; tail 320 ; hind foot 44.

Skull: upper length 59; greatest breadth 42; length of three anterior molariform teeth 9.6.

Hab. Cape York, N. Queensland. Type from Port Albany.

Type. Old female. B.M. no. 66.4.23.1. Collected by Mr. Coxen. Two specimens examined.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

Wild Life on a Norfolk Estuary. By ARTHUR H. PATTERSON. *With a Prefatory Note* by Her Grace the DUCHESS OF BEDFORD. London: Methuen & Co., 1907. 10s. 6d. net.

THIS latest of Mr. Patterson's books is most certainly his best. He has, in fact, provided us with a most delightful series of word-pictures of scenes and men of bygone times, the likes of which we shall never see again.

As a storehouse of facts concerning the bird-life of his district, Mr. Patterson's book will long be treasured. His remarks are almost entirely confined to observations on that ornithologists' paradise, "Breydon Water"—an area, of no inconsiderable size, of mud-flats and water, bounded on all sides by "ronds," whereon grow coarse grass, sanfoin, "southern-wood," and Michaelmas daisies. It is traversed by the river Yare, so that at high tide it becomes transformed into a great but shallow lake, and at low water into a series of more or less extensive mud-islands, whereon, even to-day, a rich variety of wading-birds and water-birds generally are constantly to be met with. And of these the author may claim to possess an almost unique knowledge, for he has haunted this happy hunting-ground for years. Happily gifted with very considerable powers of observation, infinite patience, and an innate, unflinching instinct for selecting the right facts for his chronicles, we may turn to his pages confident that much that is new will be found therein, though the facts may not be startling in their novelty.

It has not fallen to the lot of many men during the last thirty years or so to watch flocks of Avocets and Spoonbills, yet this Mr. Patterson has done, and in leisurely fashion too, on more than one occasion, on his beloved Breydon Water. But it is not his account of the habits of these rarities—though they were once common enough here—that will be treasured so much as his faithful and vivid descriptions of more common frequenters of this favoured spot.

The author, more than once, deploras the thirst for killing which possesses the meaner spirits who hunt this water-way. And in this we join him, especially in regard to the use of that barbarous